families @ 300 tons per month has also been made for the months of April, 2007 to July, 2007.

Quality of foodgrains provided through PDS

2054. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of foodgrains provided through Public Distribution System is ensured; and

(b) whether his Ministry is receiving complaints about the poor quality, if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. It is ensured that only good quality foodgrains are provided through Public Distribution System (PDS). The following steps are taken to ensure good quality foodgrains for PDS:-

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instruction have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Governments and the Ministry pay surprise checks to the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few complaints have been received in recent past about the poor quality of foodgrains including about imported red wheat being distributed through PDS. The complaints have been mostly due to the preference for white wheat, whereas imported wheat is mostly red wheat. The complaints received were sent to FCI for investigation/taking necessary action to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued for distribution under PDS.

Seeking assistance for treatment through media

2055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor people seek help from others including foreigners through media to meet the cost of life saving operations to save their children;